

THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT?

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Abstract: If you are an Administrator in your program, (Associate Dean, Investigating Dean, Dean of Students, etc.) you may have seen an increase in allegations of academic misconduct. You may sense that this is not unique to your campus; ease of access to material, desperate students, advances in technology and a number of other reasons have enabled this.

As the Administrator you are aware of your process to accept, then investigate the allegation and adjudicate the result. Regardless of whether this is a process that you inherited or created, if you are like the workshop facilitator, you are curious if there is a better process. One that will ensure consistency, compassion, fairness but also work to reduce occurrences (and perhaps more importantly, recurrences) of academic misconduct.

The workshop will display the academic misconduct investigation process utilized by one program (an undergraduate Business School in Canada) and expose it to criticism and praise in the attempt to arrive at a structure that achieves better outcomes.

Walking through the process we will explore communication strategies and the academic integrity process from allegation to appeal with an eye to finding a better path. Is it possible to have a process and outcome that does more than identify and punish offenders? Is it possible that there is a process that dissuades students from misconduct in the first place or should we be satisfied with a process designed to ensure that confirmed offenders are less likely to repeat?

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